

Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 EB-07 OIC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01 /080 W

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R 090930Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3939

INFO USUN NEW YORK 416

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNDP, EAID, RW

SUBJECT: UNDP RWANDA REACTS TO FINANCIAL CRISIS

REF: STATE 38843

1. DURING MEETING ON DIFFERENT TOPIC WITH WESTERN AMBS
RESIDENT KIGALI PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE FOR UNDP RESREP MEETING
YAOUNDE, KIGALI-BASED UNDP RESREP GABRE-MADHIM NOTED THAT
THE 1977-81 UNDP BUDGET FOR RWANDA HAS BEEN CUT INITIALLY
FROM \$20 MILLION TO \$11 MILLION REPRESENTING 30 PERCENT
REAL CUT IN TERMS 72-76 PROGRAM. FOR 1975, \$5 MILLION
CEILING HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH LIKELIHOOD OF FURTHER
\$2 MILLION REDUCTION. HE NOTED YAOUNDE MEETING WOULD BE
"FIRST IN SERIES REGIONAL MEETINGS" TO DISCUSS UNDP "CRITICAL
FINANCIAL SITUATION." AS PER POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS, HE NOTED
PROBLEM NON-USE CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES, EFFORT FIND LESS-
EXPENSIVE TECHNICAL EXPERTS (SUCH AS LDC NATIONALS),
MORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION, REDUCTION OF
PROJECTS. TRANSFER OF PROJECTS TO BILATERAL DONORS AND/OR
SELECTION SECTORAL PRIORITIES.

2. SWISS AND EDF REPS MADE REMARKS IMPLICITLY CRITICAL

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RECENT AND PROPOSED MAJOR EXPANSIONS IN RESIDENT UNDP

EXPERTS (DOUBLED OVER PAST 4 YEARS TO TOTAL OF 70 AND UNDP HAD ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR THAT PRESENCE WOULD BE AUGMENTED BY ANOTHER 50). FRENCH REP NOTED HIS "ASTONISHMENT" UNDP COULD CONSIDER CUTTING PROGRAM TO RWANDA--ONE OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED TWENTY-FIVE.

3. COMMENT: EMB REPORTS FOREGOING ONLY TO INDICATE THAT UNDP NEW YORK AND IN FIELD APPEAR TO BE SERIOUS IN RESPONDING TO FINANCIAL CRISIS. FRITTS

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